

MEMORANDUM

March 11, 2004

To: Group B Water System Users and Purveyors

From: Barbara Wright, Section Manager, Community Environmental Health

Re: Proposed King County Board of Health Definitions and Fee Amendments

March 30, 2004 from 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

March 31, 2004 from 2 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Eastgate Public Health Center, 14350 S.E. Eastgate Way, Bellevue

We have had limited staff resources to assist the owners of the approximately 1,400 Group B water systems. During the King County Budget process, the Metropolitan King County Council members increased budgetary authority for additional staff support for the Drinking Water Program. This additional staff will assist citizens in issues regarding bacteria contamination, well water shortages, water system operation, purveyor and water system user complaints and disputes. The King County Council did request that we look for ways for the Group B water system users to provide some of the support for the program.

We would like to invite you to two public meetings to discuss proposed fee changes and answer any questions you may have on how this would impact your Group B water system. We welcome your comments so we can develop the final recommendations for a fee proposal that will be presented the King County Board of Health. The meetings will be held at the Eastgate Public Health Center, 14350 S.E. Eastgate Way, Bellevue on the following dates:

March 30, 2004 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

March 31, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The proposed changes to the King County Board of Health Title 12 are designed to support a minimum level of staffing for the program. The changes are directed primarily toward those individuals who are developing new Group B water systems and existing Group B water systems which are expanding, or undergoing new improvements. We have developed fee support for the program which places the majority of any new fee costs on new Group B water systems forming rather than the existing Group B water systems. In the table below and the attached draft Title 12 amendment, we are providing you with an explanation of the fee changes we have proposed to support the program, and place the costs on those using the services.

The table below describes the types of services we are proposing and the costs.

Service Type	Fee History	Cost	Explanation
Office Consultations	New	\$400	In-office assistance to Group B water systems regarding disputes, technical assistance in resolving problems with management agreements, water quality, taste and odors, etc.
Water System Plan Modification	New	\$400	This fee type is set up to handle those minor additions to a Group B water system like a new reservoir without having to pay for a complete plan review. It provides flexibility to staff in reviewing improvements to a Group B water system at a reduced cost to the applicant.
Office File Review/ report on Group B	New	\$400	Provides funding for staff to prepare a report on the operational conditions, sampling history, and information on a Group B water system for a lending institution, or individual who requests the report where there has been a field inspection of the Group B water system in the last 5 years. This provides a report at a lower cost to the applicant reflecting that a field survey is not being done.
Return Inspection	New	\$400	This provides funding for staff to make return site visits on any request for services such as a well site inspection, a final inspection, a new well seal, a well decommissioning, and a comprehensive system evaluation. The return site visit is usually at the request of the applicant to verify problems or issues with the inspection have been taken care of by the applicant. This enables a development process to continue to completion and places the responsibility of the cost on the person(s) requesting the service.
Extension of approval	Amended	\$100	Provides for revised fee to cover staff time to process a request for extension of a plan approval for a Group B water system.
Plan Review	Amended	1355 plus 100.00 per connection	This changes the plan review fee for a new Group B water system by adding a cost factor to reflect the size of the Group B water system, with 9 connection water systems being more complex than 2 party water systems to complete all of the necessary calculations pressure tank sizing, management agreement review, etc.
Sample collection and analysis	Amended	\$200 plus lab fee	Provides for revised fee to cover staff time to collect a water sample in the field on a Group B water system.
Database Maintenance Fee	Amended	\$15 per sample	Amends fee for labs other than Public Health lab to cover costs for maintaining electronic database record on water quality on the Group B water systems. This makes the fee the same as the cost for all labs, and corrects an error in the fee change done in 1999, which covered only part of the labs.

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Note: The only fee which effects existing Group B water systems which are not expanding is the change from \$7.00 to \$15.00 for each sample submitted for the record keeping on the water quality for that Group B water system.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the public meetings. If you have any questions or would like written material about Health Code Title 12 please contact Bill Lasby at (206) 205-3982 or bill.lasby@metrokc.gov.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

BW:dc
Attachments

cc: Alonzo Plough, PH.D. Director
Dr. Ngozi T Oleru, Division Director, Environmental Health Services